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THE MICROSCOPE IN BOTANY.<sup>1</sup>—This edition and translation differs in many important respects from the original, having been especially adapted by the American editors to the wants of botanical students in this country. The changes are most numerous in chapter I, which is devoted to a discussion of the microscope. Here the student will find much valuable and interesting matter. We cannot refrain from quoting, for the benefit of our makers of microscopes as well as the younger botanists, the remark of Hugo Von Mohl: "The simpler the construction of the microscope is, the more easily and more quickly will one accomplish all the necessary movements. The more complicated the construction the more will they cost in time and reflection, and the more will the attention be distracted thereby during the observation. Whoever has not the manual dexterity to work with a simply constructed microscope, and finds it necessary to use a screw instead of his fingers for every movement, is on that account disqualified for a microscopical observer, for he will labor in vain to prepare a usable specimen" (p. 8).

The second chapter is devoted to accessories, and the third to the preparation of microscopic objects, both of which pertain to microscopy in general fully as much as to micro-botany.

Chapter IV is devoted to the reagents to be used in the botanical laboratory. The treatment here is satisfactory, and reminds one much of Poulson's Botanical Micro-Chemistry.

In chapter V we find the book proper, to which all the preceding chapters have been accessory and preparatory. Here are taken up the various substances to be found in the plant, *e. g.*, cellulose, including wood and cork, starch, dextrine, mucilage, gum, inulin, sugar, albuminous matter, chlorophyll, the coloring matter of flowers, etc., etc. In all this portion of the book the treatment is such that the student cannot fail to obtain many useful suggestions and hints in his work.—*Charles E. Bessey.*

THE AMATEUR NATURALIST, Germanton, Phila.; THE HOOSIER MINERALOGIST AND ARCHÆOLOGIST, Indianapolis; THE MUSEUM, Philada.; THE YOUNG MINERALOGIST AND ANTIQUARIAN, Wheaton, Illinois.—These periodicals are intended for the instruction and pleasure of the younger naturalists, and we welcome them as a useful agent in developing the taste for science which is so frequently seen among boys. Such publications serve to keep alive an interest which is often more or less extinguished with advancing years and responsibilities, but which is of much value to the possessor. A more general adoption of the scientific or positive method in thought and action is one of the anticipations of those

<sup>1</sup> *The Microscope in Botany.* A guide for the microscopical investigation of vegetable substance. From the German of Dr. Julius Wilhelm Behrens. Translated and edited by Rev. A. B. HERVEY, A.M., assisted by R. H. WARD, M.D., F.R.M.S. Illustrated with 13 plates and 153 cuts. Boston, S. E. Cassino & Company. 1885, pp. xvi, 466. \$5.